Eminem Talks Michael Jackson, Addiction, 'Different' New Songs

'That's exactly what used to happen to me,' he says of stories of the late Michael Jackson's alleged pill addiction.

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[artist id="502642"]Eminem[/artist] made his triumphant return earlier this year with *Relapse,* but has yet to rest on his laurels, putting all of his energy into the soon-to-be-released follow-up, [article id="1609937"]*Relapse 2[/article].*

In the December/January issue of *Complex* magazine, the iconic rapper looks back on the splash his comeback created, from the buzz he's built for the *Relapse* sequel to, more seriously, comparisons to [artist id="1102"]Michael Jackson[/artist]'s ills.

Em, in a moment of reflection, opened up about his battle with addiction, comparing it to [article id="1616299"]Jackson's struggle with pills[/article] -- although he cautioned it's hard to decipher what reports about the Gloved One were true, much like his own life.

"Oh, 100 percent," Em said when asked about parallels between Jackson's demise and his own hard times. "When you read things about Michael Jackson it's hard to decipher what the f--- is true, but there's the story of how he woke up at whatever time and he needed something to go back to sleep because he has this or that and it didn't work -- that's exactly what used to happen to me," Em continued. "I would take a couple of pills and I would be up an hour later and I'd want more.

"It's one of the pitfalls of fame," he added. "I could just say, 'Yo, I need this and this and this,' and they're going to give me whatever I want."

Since Eminem has been sober for the past 20 months, he's said his addiction has been channeled away from drugs into things like jogging (hence the weight loss) and studio time (hence the quick follow-up album). [article id="1624252"]Just Blaze is helping Slim Shady out on *Relapse 2[/article],* Dr. Dre recently joined Em in the lab to work on new material.

He's aiming to make a better-rounded album with the *Relapse* sequel, he explained.

"When I finished *Relapse,* I had a whole album of material that didn't make it that I wasn't ready to throw away, so that was going to be *Relapse 2,*" Em offered. "But then I got with Dre in Hawaii and started recording more, and now the new material has knocked out all the old songs. But yeah, the new material is definitely different.

"Making *Relapse,* I was still working the drugs out of my system, so there was a lot of ... just jokey sh--," he explained. "It was a lot of punch line-y, funny, shock value -- kind of going back to *The Slim Shady LP.* And that was cool, but I've kind of flipped the page. Now I'm going for songs instead of one-liners. I don't want to make sh-- that you hear once and then the joke's over -- I want to make records that you could play a hundred times, a thousand times."